

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 069864

R 210859Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0219

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SAIGON 21332

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VS

SUBJ: PETROLEUM: DETAILS SEISMIC SURVEYS CONTINUE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: CERP

### 1. SUMMARY

DETAILED SEISMIC WORK CONTINUES IN VIETNAM'S OFFSHORE CONCESSION AREAS. ALTHOUGH STORIES HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING THAT PROSPECTS FOR OIL DISCOVERY ARE GOOD, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO KNOW. DRILLING IS EXPECTED TO START IN LATE SUMMER AT THE EARLIEST. END SUMMARY

2. THREE OF THE FIRMS WITH OFFSHORE CONCESSIONS WERE RECENTLY CONTACTED BY EMBOFF. ESSO AND SHELL REPS STATED THAT ROUGH WEATHER HAD INTERFERED WITH CONDUCT OF DETAILED UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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SEISMIC SURVEY. ESSO IS JUST ABOUT FINISHED WHILE SHELL WITH THREE BLOCKS WILL NEED THREE MORE MONTHS TO COM-

PLETE ITS SURVEYS. SUNNYDALE REP REMARKED ITS SURVEY SHIP. MOBIL, WHICH STILL HAS NO LOCAL REP, HAS BEEN WORKING ON ITS SURVEY SINCE THIRD WEEK OF NOVEMBER.

3. OIL FIRM REPS HAVE EMPHASIZED AVAILABILITY OF RIGS WILL DETERMINE WHEN DRILLING CAN START, ASSUMING COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF SEIMIC DATA IS ENCOURAGING. SINCE ESSO AND SHELL WERE FIRST TO BEGIN SURVEYS, PRESUMABLY THEY WOULD BE FIRST TO DRILL. ONLY SHELL REP HAS STATED THAT DRILLING COULD START AS EARLY AS LATE SUMMER. OTHERS WHILE NON-COMMITTAL ARE EXPECTED TO DRILL SOON THEREAFTER.

4. STORIES CIRCULATING HERE AND ABROAD ABOUT THE OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR VIETNAM'S OFFSHORE OIL SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH A GRAIN OF SALT. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO KNOW. ALL THE NEEDED SEISMIC DATA HAVE NOT YET BEEN COLLECTED AND ANALYZED BY COMPUTERS.  
BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OFFSHORE DRILLING, SEISMIC DATA, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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